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## **VILLAGE OF RUIDOSO SECURES AGREEMENT ON EAGLE CREEK WATER RIGHTS**

RUIDOSO, NM – The Village of Ruidoso continues to make progress securing the community's Eagle Creek surface and groundwater rights. The Village and the Rio Hondo Land & Cattle Company, a subsidiary of the Ford Secure Trust, negotiated an agreement that resolved more than a decade of concerns about these rights.

This settlement, coupled with last year's agreement with the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, solidifies the Village's right to divert water from Eagle Creek. The recently completed USGS Study of the North Fork of Eagle Creek helped the Village resolve long-standing issues with both the State Engineer and the Ford Trust.

In 1984, the Village began the 40-year process of discovering and developing new sources of water in the North Fork of Eagle Creek. To date, the Village's efforts have added 1,625 acre-feet per year of groundwater rights, the right to supplement 761.12 acre-feet per year of surface rights with groundwater and the right to divert more than 1,000 acre-feet per year credit for return flow from the Rio Ruidoso. An acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons and is enough water to meet the needs of 4 typical Village households for a year. .

For any municipality, the right to divert water is the foundation of its water supply. With this latest agreement, the Village of Ruidoso continues the ongoing work of securing water for its residents and businesses, while providing for the sustainable development of the community's future.

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